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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/876,322	06/16/1997	DAVID J. ROBSON	7:ROBSON-CON	4900

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02/26/2002

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INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

EXAMINER

CINTINS, IVARS C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1724

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
08/876,322

Applicant(s)
Robson et al.

Examiner
Ivars Cintins

Art Unit
1724



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Dec 3, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8-15, 17, 20, 24, and 25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-6, 8-15, 17, 20, 24, and 25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- 15) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 20) ☐ Other:

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-15, 20, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sohnus (U.S. Patent No. 3,607,741) in view of published European patent application EP 0 213 252 A1. Sohnus discloses the claimed invention with the exception of the specific cellulosic material employed. Published European patent application EP 0 213 252 A1 discloses treating a lignocellulosic material in the recited manner, and further teaches (see col. 1, lines 6-8) that such treatment increases the dimensional stability of the lignocellulosic material, and also improves its resistance to biological degradation. Since both of these characteristics would obviously be desirable for the material of Sohnus, particularly since this reference material will be used in open and rough bodies of water (see col. 1, line 21), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the liquid purification art to substitute the treated lignocellulosic material of the secondary reference for

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the cellulosic material of the primary reference, in order to obtain the advantages disclosed by this secondary reference for the system of the primary reference.

Claims 1, 3-6, 11, 15, 17, 20, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Norman et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,379,746) in view of published European patent application EP 0 213 252 A1. Norman et al discloses filtering a transformer oil through paper (see col. 2, lines 35 and 67), and discloses the claimed invention with the exception of the recited esterification treatment for this paper. Published European patent application EP 0 213 252 A1 discloses treating a lignocellulosic material in the recited manner in order to increase its dimensional stability and to improve its resistance to biological degradation; and since both dimensional stability and resistance to biological degradation are obviously desirable characteristics for the paper material utilized in the Norman et al process, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to treat the paper of the primary reference in the manner taught by the secondary reference, in order to obtain the advantages associated with such treatment for the paper of this primary reference.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to I. Cintins

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whose telephone number is (703) 308-3840. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

The fax phone numbers for this art unit are: (703) 872-9311 for "Official" faxes after Final Rejection; (703) 872-9310 for all other "Official" faxes; and (703) 872-9492 for "Draft" and other "Unofficial" faxes.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


Ivars C. Cintins
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1724

I. Cintins
February 23, 2002